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Economic Aspects of the War. Neutral Rights Belligerent Claims and American Commerce in the Years 1914-1915 by Edwin T. Clapp

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ments not only of Europe but of other parts of the world and certain colonial dependencies."

The present volume dealing with Germany begins with a brief account of the development of the German Empire and the constitution. It includes a description of the Reichstag and the Bundesrat; of the Kaiser, his powers and personality; of the Chancellor with a brief discussion of the five men who have held that position since 1871; of the law-making process, finances, the army and navy, the government of Alsace-Lorraine, the judicial system, the parliamentary history, the foreign policy, and the colonial dependencies. The field covered is so broad and the space devoted to it is so limited that the result is hardly more than an outline of the subject. But the brevity makes for compactness and convenience of reference, while considerable latitude is allowed for the expression of the personal bias of the author, which adds to the interest without detracting from the value of the account. Each chapter is followed by a short bibliography, mainly of the best English works, while thirty-two pages at the end are devoted to a critical bibliography, containing the more important German as well as English references.

Altogether this first volume is a well-written piece of work and promises well for the rest of the series.

*Economic Aspects of the War.* Neutral Rights Belligerent Claims and American Commerce in the years 1914-1915. By EDWIN T. CLAPP. Yale University Press. 1915. Pp. xiv, 340.

If this book by Professor Clapp were merely a compilation of facts, it would be an extremely valuable one for students especially of international law; for it brings together in compact form material which is scattered through newspaper files and other sources which are inconvenient of use. But it is something more than a compilation of facts. It is a very suggestive study of the modifications made in international law during this present war as they affect American commerce and a discussion of the justification of those modifications. Among the questions discussed is that of the export of foodstuffs; the usage in regard to it under established international law; the changes introduced by the August and by the October British Order in Council; and the *Wilhelmina* case. At no time since the war began has England allowed American foodstuffs to go through to Germany, a

prohibition which has affected unfavorably not Germany which is practically self sufficient and in addition has been able to secure a certain amount of grain from Russia, but America which has lost a customer whom it may be difficult to regain at the conclusion of the war.

Other questions discussed are the British blockade with an account of the preliminary steps leading up to it; the movement of cotton during the war and of copper which has suffered almost as severely as cotton at the hands of Great Britain. As to exports, Professor Clapp finds the situation spotty; certain trades being stimulated and certain others depressed. The condition of the South is especially important as affecting the rest of the country. In regard to exports, the general impression is corrected that the great increase has been made in munitions of war. While there has been an increase there, the greatest in quantity has been in foodstuffs. Taken as a whole, our export trade shows a much smaller percentage of increase than current opinion would lead one to expect and this increase has not been made in sales to neutral nations and in the building up of permanent lines of trade but in sales especially of foodstuffs to Europe, which is a temporary matter. Among our imports those most seriously affected have been rubber, wool and tin for which we are dependent upon Great Britain and which we have been allowed to import only under British supervision and upon various written agreements that they will not be re-exported to Germany; and potash and dye stuffs which can only be secured in Germany.

Professor Clapp would seem to write with a special animus against Great Britain, which is proof not of his lack of impartiality but of the fact that by far the greater part of the violations of international law which have been made directly affecting our rights and interests, have been made by Great Britain; that these violations have made a serious breach in international law as it was supposed to have been established in regard to naval war; and that these modifications of established usage have affected most unfavorably legitimate neutral trade. To secure a return to international law as it was known at the beginning of the present war, Professor Clapp suggests an arms embargo, to be followed if need be by a food embargo.

The appendix contains the text of the more important British Orders in Council and a few other documents such as the Copper Agreement and the statement issued by the British Embassy in Washington telling American exporters how to export.